

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings include new FIGS. 1a and 1b which depict features recited in original claims 2 and 4 of the application.

Attachment: One (1) new sheet of drawings

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1 and 5-12. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2-4. Accordingly, claims 2-4 have been canceled. In addition, claim 11 has been amended to correct a clerical error noted therein and claim 12 has been amended to improve its form. New FIGS. 1a and 1b have been added, and the specification has been amended to refer to the new FIGS. 1a and 1b, and to add headings as requested by the Examiner. Support may be found, *inter alia*, in the disclosure at pages 3-4 and 8-10, claims 2-4, and the original drawings. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) as failing to show the "cleaning element configured in tube or hose shape" (claim 2) and the cleaning element having "a slightly smaller circumference than the retaining body" (claim 4). Additionally, claims 2 and 4 were objected to under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for substantially the same reasons. In the Examiner's view, it was unclear (1) what was meant by "tube or hose shape" in claim 2 when the drawings do not illustrate such a shape, and (2) what was meant by the

"cleaning element has a slightly smaller circumference than the retaining body" in claim 4 when the drawings illustrate a cleaning element that has a slightly larger circumference than the retaining body.

In response, Applicants have added new FIGS. 1a and 1b to illustrate the features previously recited in claims 2 and 4. FIG. 1a shows the retaining handle 2 shown in the original FIG. 1 by itself. FIG. 1b shows the retaining body 3 having the neck 22 and the head 23. The cleaning element 4 in hose or tube form is disposed around the holder body 3, 22, 23 -- not yet braced here. This cleaning element 4 in hose or tube form is made up of an elastically stretchable cleaning plush fabric and has a slightly smaller circumference than the holder body 3, 22, 23, in the not yet braced state.

To brace the cleaning element 4 on the retaining body 3, 22, 23, the holder handle (cf. FIG. 1a) is pushed over the head 23 and the neck 22 of the retaining body 3 (cf. original FIG. 1), under elastic bias. In this connection, the cleaning element 4 is pressed into the depressions in the region of the neck 22 of

the holder body 3 -- as indicated by arrows in FIG. 1b -- and when so pressed, the cleaning element elastically lengthens to the length of the outside circumference of the retaining body 3, 22, 23. On the basis of this elastic bias, the cleaning element 4 now lies firmly against the outside circumference of the holder body 3, 22, 23, and cannot slip.

When the cleaning surface of the cleaning element 4 that is now exposed has been used up, the retaining handle 2 can be taken off and the cleaning element 4 can be fixed in place on the retaining body again, in a different position. This process can be repeated until all the cleaning surfaces of the cleaning element 4 have been used up.

It is respectfully submitted that the new FIGS. 1a and 1b overcome the Examiner's objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) and to claims 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejections on that basis be withdrawn.

The Examiner also objected the specification as lacking

headings. In response, Applicants have amended the specification to include headings. It is respectfully submitted that these changes to the specification overcome the formal objections to same, and Applicants respectfully request that the rejections on that basis be withdrawn as well.

Claim 12 was objected to under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in having insufficient antecedent basis for the recitation "the free ends" in lines 3-4. In response, Applicants have amended claim 12 to improve its form, which it is respectfully submitted overcomes the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Steward U.S. Patent No. 2,560,008*. Claims 1-4, 7 and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Ichikawa et al JP 2002-143065*. Also, claims 1-3, 5-6 and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Kersh U.S. Patent No. 2,516,396*. Claims 1-2, 8 and 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Nissenbaum U.S. Patent No. 2,454,668*.

In response, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2-4 and respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection for the following reasons:

As set forth in claim 1 as amended, Applicants' invention provides a brush system having a retaining body held by a retaining handle. A cleaning element can be fixed on the retaining handle in a first functional position and can be transferred from the first functional position into at least one second functional position. The cleaning element is configured in tube or hose shape and surrounds the retaining body so that it rests against the retaining body with elastic bias and can be wedged in place on the retaining body by means of the retaining handle. In addition, the cleaning element has a slightly smaller circumference than the retaining body 3. In this way, Applicants' invention provides a brush system in which the cleaning element can be used up completely.

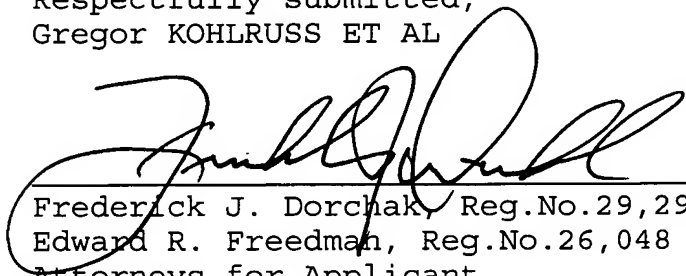
As it is believed that none of the cited references discloses or suggests a brush system in which the cleaning element is configured in tube or hose shape, surrounds the

retaining body with an elastic bias, can be wedged in place on the retaining body by means of the retaining handle, and has a slightly smaller circumference than the retaining body, or is capable of performing the functions of the brush system as discussed previously, it is believed that claim 1 as amended, together with claims 5-12 which depend thereon, are patentable over the cited references.

For the Examiner's further consideration, Applicants are also enclosing herewith several photographs of prototypes of Applicants' claimed brush system.

In summary, claims 1, 11 and 12 have been amended, and claims 2-4 have been canceled. The specification has been amended, and new FIGS. 1a and 1b have been added. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures: Appendix with one (1) new sheet of drawings,
Six (6) photographs of prototypes, Copy of Petition for three-
month Extension of Time

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 8, 2008.



Amy Klein



APPENDIX